

Coushatta

Camellia



March 2010 Newsletter

P.O. Box 1655, Conroe, TX 77305

Society

TEXAS CAMELLIA SHOW

Houston, Coushatta and East Texas Camellia Societies

By Claudette Shelfer

February 27, 2010, West Hill Mall, Huntsville, Texas

Show Chairman - Morris Waller

423 Blooms Exhibited, 97 Attendees, 19 Exhibitors

CERTIFICATES: Gold Certificate: Hal Vanis

Silver Certificate: Dennis Bilyeu

OUTSTANDING BLOOM CERTIFICATES

C. japonica: **Lg/VLg:** 'Lucy Stewart', Dennis Bilyeu; **RU:** 'Granada', Dennis Bilyeu; **Lg:** 'Royal Velvet', Dennis Bilyeu; **RU:** 'Lady Laura', Tommy Weeks; **Md/Lg:** 'Cherries Jubilee', Dennis Bilyeu; **RU:** 'Ville de Nantes', Dennis Bilyeu; **Md:** 'Princess Masako', Hal Vanis; **RU:** 'Dr. Tinsley', Morris Waller; **Sm:** 'Buddy Var.', Hal Vanis; **RU:** 'Black Gold', Tommy Weeks; **Mn:** 'Man Size', Charles Ganbrill; **RU:** 'Melissa', Dudley Boudreaux

C. reticulata (Inc. hybrids w/retic parent): **Lg/VLg:** 'Frank Houser Var.', Hal Vanis; **RU:** 'Frank Houser', Hal Vanis; **Mn/Md-Lg:** 'Black Lace', Tommy Weeks; **RU:** 'Betty Ridley Var.', Hal Vanis

C. hybrid (w/no retic parent): **Lg/VLg:** 'Charlean Var.', Dennis Bilyeu; **RU:** No Award; **Mn/Md-Lg:** 'Twinkle Star', Tommy Weeks; **RU:** 'Adorable', Hal Vanis

Tray of Three-same variety: 'Frank Houser', Hal Vanis

Seedlings & Mutants - Any Species:

'Grant Campbell', Tommy Weeks

Specimen Blooms - Other Species:

Vernalis 'Star Above Star', W. B. Knox

Best Novice Bloom: 'Royal Velvet', Cherokee Caddell

Upcoming Events

April 6 April meeting
6:30 p.m. - Villa Italia
603 N. Thompson, Conroe
RSVP Diane Dyer - (936) 321-6685
Deadline for reservation - March 31
Additional parking in the church parking
lot across the street.

Summer 2010 Board meeting
..... Time and place to be determined

Please help our Treasurer close out the books for this year! Diane asks that everyone who has receipts for reimbursement turn them in as soon as possible.

*Have a wonderful summer -
we'll see you in September!*

September 7 September meeting
6:30 p.m. - social
7:00 p.m. - Sponsor Appreciation
Pot Luck Supper
First Christian Church
3500 N Loop 336 W, Conroe
(meeting in the parlor)

Support Our Sponsors!

www.margaritaandpeppers.com



2259 N. Loop 336 W.
Conroe, TX 77304
936-788-1408

MARGARITA & PEPPERS
MEXICAN GRILL & BAR

- GARDEN & LAWN SUPPLIES
- WEED & BRUSH KILLER
- FERTILIZER
- INSECTICIDES
- PET FOOD & SUPPLIES
- HORSE & POULTRY SUPPLIES
- BEEKEEPER SUPPLIES

HENDERSON
FEED & SUPPLY

FEED *SINCE 1970*

"CONROE'S COMPLETE - ONE STOP FARM - RANCH - GARDEN CENTER"

MON - FRI
7:30 AM to 8:00 PM
SAT 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM

936-756-2423
101 E. DAVIS • CONROE

LOVE STAR BRAND
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Coushatta Camellia Society Newsletter

Published monthly, August through March, for members of the Coushatta Camellia Society

President Dick Eidem
Editor & Writer Judy Weidner

new earth
SOILS & COMPOST

936-756-4846
(F) 936-756-8594
(C) 936-443-8789
12286 Hwy 105 East
Conroe, Texas 77306
www.newearthcompost.com

Container Grown Nursery

GROWERS OF QUALITY ORNAMENTAL PLANTS

16159 Rabon Chapel Road
Montgomery, Texas 77316
936-588-3779

NOW IS THE TIME TO PAY DUES!

Treasurer Diane Dyer is ready to collect your dues for 2009-2010. Make your payment (\$10 single, \$15 joint) at the April meeting and save postage. Thanks to all you members who have already paid your dues - we appreciate you. Just joined in January or February? We're glad to have you! You need not pay dues until next year at this time. If you will be paying dues over the summer, please send directly to Diane at 623 Mosswood, Conroe, TX 77302. Consider becoming a "Friend of CCS" this year. Your donation of \$25 will be recognized in the yearbook.

Is there a program you'd like to see or give? Dennis Bilyeu would like to have your ideas!

Was your contact information listed correctly in last year's yearbook? Have you had a change of address, phone or e-mail since then? Please turn it in your correct information to Diane Dyer with your dues payment. Thanks!

Camellia Gardener April - August

by Dennis Bilyeu

If you planted a Camellia using my planting technique of building a water dam ring around your plant, you now need to spread that water dam ring out and make the ground around your plant level or gradually tapering down to natural ground level. By now the roots of your plant should be well established and starting to spread. Leveling the water dam ring will encourage the roots to continue growing outward. Start the leveling process by digging down the trunk of your plant to the top of the roots, and then level or taper the ground from that level to natural ground level. If your plants are like mine, you will end up spreading a lot of good soil/mulch beyond the outer feeder roots, encouraging that outward root growth.

Now is also a good time to add fresh mulch around your plants. This is especially important if you do the water ring leveling described above. I like to use pine needles but any kind of leaf mulch is fine. Spread the mulch out past the outer most branches of your plant.

Now is also a great time to fertilize and spray your plants. See my earlier recommendations in our past newsletters. You should be seeing new growth by now. If you don't have a good flush of new growth you probably need to fertilize and water your plants. Also remember for plants that have been in the ground for less than two years you need to water them at least once a week and twice a week if we don't have rain.

Check your plants at least once a week for insect/critter damage, fungal infections, and water stress. My plants tell me when they need water by their droopy leaves, so develop an eye for this behavior and act accordingly. Camellias develop their flower buds during the next 2 months so if you want a lot of blooms in the fall now is the time to take care of your plants.

If you purchased a Camellia and have not planted it yet, DO NOT plant it until at least September. If we have a hot dry summer like last year most Camellias planted now will not survive until the fall. Simply keep the Camellia in the pot and give it the recommended fertilizer and water it more frequently than you do plants in the ground. If you want to really give this plant some TLC you could re-pot it into a larger pot using some good Camellia mix soil. I recommend taking the plant out of the existing pot and checking the root ball. If the roots are grown out to the outer edge and wrap around the root ball you should re-pot it into a larger pot. If the roots are not wrapping around the root ball, I would just put it back in the same pot until the fall planting time.

If you need help or just want to talk to someone about your plants, don't hesitate to give me a call.



Meg Mendek explains camellia care to a prospective buyer at March Mart while Dick Eidem and Randy McDaniel stand ready to help.

MARCH MART at MERCER

by Dennis Bilyeu

I believe every one of our CCS volunteers enjoyed the experience of participating in March Mart. WB Knox said it best when he said every CCS member should have the experience of participating in March Mart. WB said he had never been to Mercer before and he is really glad he came.

It was a win – win situation for everyone involved. We got to practice our purpose for existing as defined by our CCS charter; ‘To promote interest in and exchange information on growing Camellias’, while also making a few dollars for our club. We sold 307 camellias, which is as many if not more plants at this one event as we usually sell through the year in all our other events.

The president of the Mercer Society told me, while buying two Camellias, that we added a lot to March Mart and he was glad we were here. The Director of Mercer came by at the end to personally thank us as she gave hugs. It was a lot of work and I was exhausted at the end of each day of the sale and at the end of the sale did not stay for the pizza party so I could get home and put my feet up. It was the good tired feeling you have when you enjoyed doing something good.

I appreciate all the volunteers that helped with March Mart but I would like to give special thanks to the volunteers that worked with me every day, all day: Tommy Weeks, Dick Eidem, Don & Jenny Marcotte, Claudette Shelfer and Renee.

VARIETY	INVENTORY	VARIETY	INVENTORY
Carter's Sunburst	1	Man Size	3
Hana-Jiman	8	Marie Bracey	4
Henry Huntington	1	Nancy K.	8
Kick Off	6	Willard Scott	4

END INVENTORY - 39; TOTAL SALES - 307

Members who wish to purchase any of the remaining camellias for \$25 each may contact Dick Eidem. Azaleas available for \$10 each include 8 Formosa Purple, 2 George Tabor, 10 Wakaebisu, 9 Red Ruffles, 7 G. G. Gerbing and 7 Pink Ruffles.



Claudette Shelfer, Jenny Marcotte, Morris Waller & W.B. Knox "man" the table at March Mart.

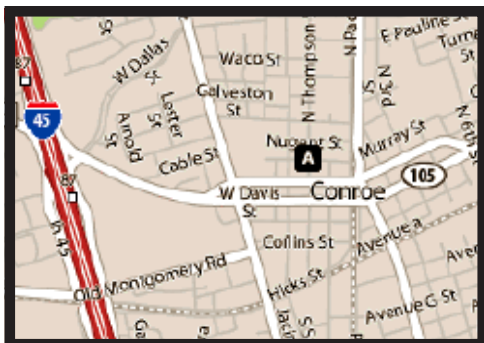
APRIL END OF YEAR PARTY WITH AN OLD FRIEND - APRIL 6

Renee, Ruby, Maxine and Diane checked out a restaurant for the end of the year party. It's Villa Italia, an old restaurant with a new face, located in a lovely historic house at 603 N. Thompson at Cochran in downtown Conroe.

IT WILL be necessary to make reservations and pay \$24 per person ahead of time. Checks may be made out to CCS & mailed to Diane Dyer, 623 Mosswood Dr., Conroe, 77302. Call Diane by March 31 to reserve your place.

Directions to Villa Italia:

Take the highway 105 exit on I-45 (#87) and drive east on highway 105 (W. Davis), crossing Frazier. Turn left on Thompson Street, and drive north two blocks. Villa Italia will be in the house on the NW corner of Cochran and Thompson. You may park in the lot by the home, or in the church parking lot on the NE corner.



April

Dick Eidem
Shelley Madeley
Daniel Paul
Luther Thorn

May

Vicki Barnes
Linda Gibson
Steve Glesener
Phyllis Hartman
Oscar Schank
Lois Smith

June

Mike Dougherty
Charlie Gambrill
Margie Koehl
Roy Kveton
Pamela Lewis
Laurie McCranor
Jim Sadoti
Tommy Weeks
JR Weidner
Jackie Wells

Happy Birthday!

To all our members who will be celebrating before we meet again:



July

Greg Davis
Diane Dyer
Bill Feece
Beverly Fussell
Ashwin Shah
Emory Smith, Jr.
Amy Thorn
Morris Waller



August

Bill Dupré
Sarah Gooch
Patricia Harness
William Harness
Peggy LeVrier
JoAnn Treat
Judy Weidner

Coushatta Camellia Society

P.O. Box 1655
Conroe, TX 77305